

FLD 413

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

25X1

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC

Kamenz Airfield

EVALUATION

25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

29 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

1 - one sketch on ditto, with legend

REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. The landing field at Kamenz airfield had been extended to the northeast as far as the eastern perimeter of Zschornau. An improvised runway of runway mats was observed in the new portion of the field prior to June 1953. The plan to tear down a barn and a bakery in Zschornau was given up. Three large quartering buildings were under construction in the southern portion of the field where also three hangars were located, the construction of which had been started in the fall of 1952. The spur track observed previously was serviceable. A brick wall, about 2.5 meters high, extended along the road on the western edge of the field and south of the quartering buildings.<sup>1</sup>

2. Until 17 June, 15 Yak-18s, which conducted intensive training flying, had been stationed at the field. The planes then transferred to an undetermined destination. [redacted] about

25X1

mid-July 1953, two MIG-15s arrived by rail. Since that time, the fuselage of a jet fighter had been seen propped up in front of the large hangar. The fuselage was probably used for the training of mechanics; the running of its engine was repeatedly heard. There was no air activity at the field prior to 10 August. An estimated 1,200 VPL soldiers were quartered in the Panzer Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne. From the fact that the personnel of each of the barracks installations had their own football team, [redacted] different units were quartered there. The Panzer Kaserne (Installation 2) housed the pilot school and the air unit as long as flying at the field was observed. The Infanterie Kaserne (Installation 1) housed a mechanic or flight mechanic school. Trucks [redacted] belonged to the barracks installations.<sup>2</sup>

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. Between 11 and 15 August, a basic training course for VPL officers and NCOs was held in Kamenz. The purpose of the course was the coordination of basic training on the basis of service regulation "P 51" which had often been interpreted wrongly.

4. Kamenz airfield was unused. The runway mats had been shipped away, allegedly to Drewitz. The grass on the field had grown high. During the reported period, the soil was firm and dry. The field was equipped with two modern flight control stations, called "Kommandopunkte". The hangar to be used by the pilot training course was empty. The second hangar was occupied by 5 La-9s, one of which was

25X1

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

25X1  
25X1  
25X1

a natural-size cut-open model, and 6 MiG-15s which were dismantled by Soviet soldiers and VPs and were shipped away on 13 August on wreckers [redacted] and trucks [redacted]

25X1

5. After 17 June 1953, the term Genossen was replaced by the words Kollegen or Brueder for addressing comrades in some of the companies in Kamenz. Officer candidates with secondary school training did no longer want to be trained together with soldiers who had only attended elementary schools. This attitude found expression in the demand that the period of training be reduced by 6 to 12 months. At a meeting of party activists of the unit in Kamenz it was stated that the demand for a reduced period of training was directed against the soldiers with elementary schooling because they could not keep pace with the increased speed of training involved in the demand.

6. So far the NCOs and EM of the flying personnel in Kamenz had not received any flight allowance. On 19 August, this allowance was to be paid for the first time to the amount of 300 eastmarks per month. This allowance brings the monthly pay of an enlisted man of VPL units to 554 eastmarks per month.

7. Between 13 and 26 August, no aircraft were parked on the field outside the closed hangars. There was no air activity. The quarters at the former Panzer Kaserne and Infanterie Kaserne were occupied; however no training was observed on the barracks yard or in the surroundings of the installations. Town leave appeared to be restricted. Although no Soviet soldiers were quartered in the barracks installations, many Soviet trucks occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed there.

8. Construction work on a quartering building which was completed up to the second floor was discontinued. Spotlights which had been in operation during construction work were removed. On the morning of 26 August, no construction workers were seen at the field. A strong gasoline smell was noticed from the direction of the four tents at the western edge of the field. [redacted] the former runway was 100 steps, i.e. about 60 meters wide. [redacted]

9. On 24 August, no aircraft were observed on the landing field and in a hangar, the two gates of which were open. Groups of 30 to 40 workers of Bauunion South were doing construction work in the southern portion of the field and at several construction sites near Kamenz-Nord railroad station. Seven temporary wooden buildings in the southeastern corner of the field partially housed construction personnel. KVP wearing blue collar patches were undergoing instruction at the barracks installations on the north-eastern perimeter of the town. Sedan [redacted] and trucks [redacted] entered the gate of the barracks installation.

1. Comment. According to previous information, only two hangars and one flight control station are located in the southern portion of Kamenz airfield. Probably [redacted] mistook the flight control station for a hangar, because it has a tower-like superstructure.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

-- 3 --

- 25X1 2. [ ] Comment. Until March 1953, 20 to 25 Yak-18s and about 10 Yak-11s had been observed at the field. As the landing field proved inadequate, the Yak-11s transferred to Dresden-Klotzsche in April 1953. Since mid-June 1953, the 602d VPL Regt with the 302d Airfield Supply Bn has been stationed at Drewitz airfield. The former Panzer Kaserne probably only houses the Technical officers' and NCO School of the VPL. Allegedly also a VPL school for initial pilot training is to be stationed at Kamenz.
- 25X1 3. [ ] Comment. [ ] La-9s were reported for the first time at an installation occupied by the VPL. There is a possibility that Yak-11s were mistaken for La-9s as these types are of similar figuration. It is doubted that the dismantled runway mats should have been shipped to Drewitz.
- 25X1 4. [ ] Comment. For sketch of airfield installations, see Annex. Observation of the field is hampered by a high wall and a board fence. However, the existence of the buildings recorded on the sketch is born out by observations made [ ] However, the location of the buildings and hangars as well as their size is possibly incorrect. The reconstruction of the airfield was started in June 1953 and is now virtually completed. It appears that it is not intended to construct a concrete runway. The field appears suited for initial flight training.

25X1

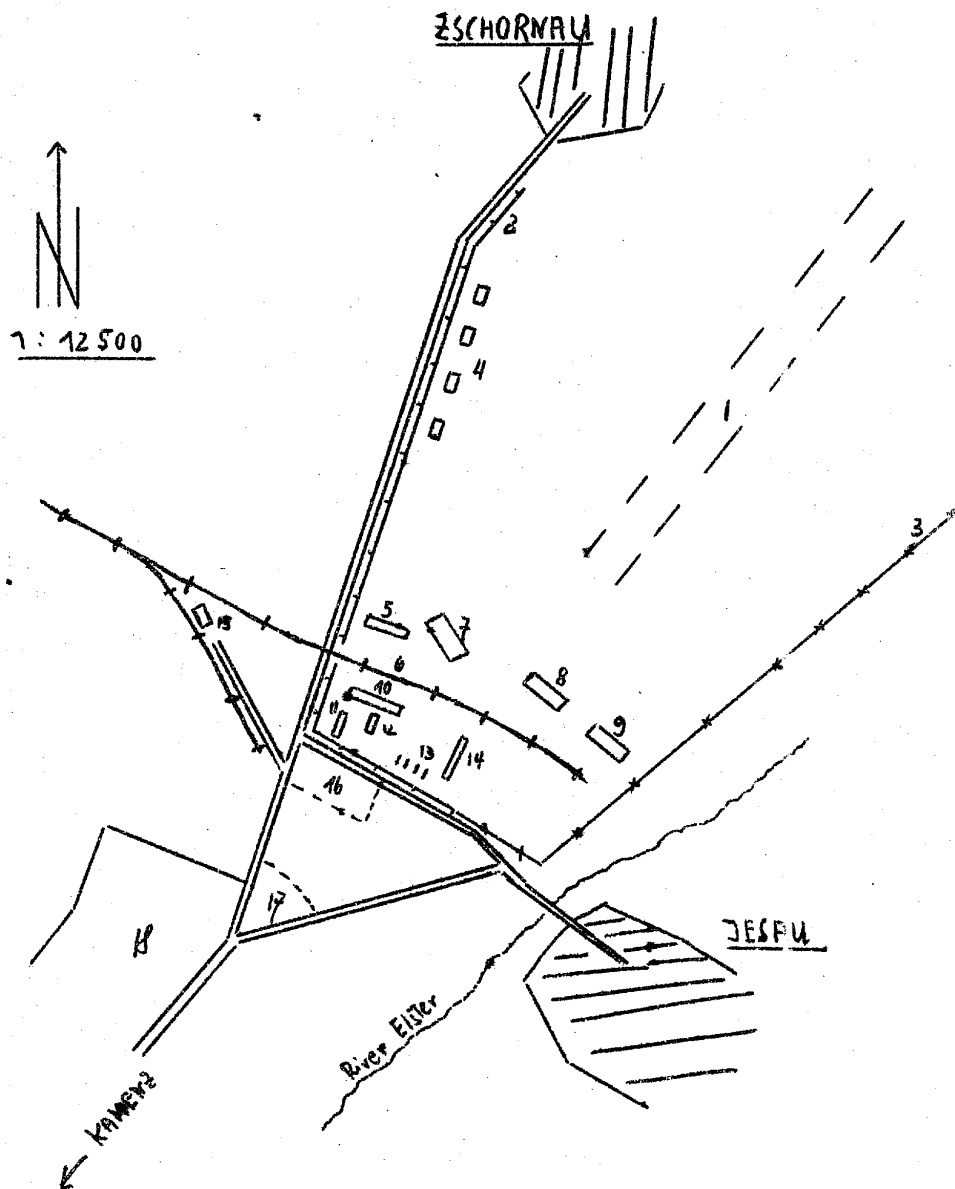
SECRET

25X1

Annex

SECRET

Kamenz Airfield



For legend, see next page.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

Annex

- 2 -

## Legend:

- 1 Former improvised runway, now dismantled; 60 meters wide; imprints of the runway mats are still visible
  - 2 Wall, 2 meters high
  - 3 Board fence
  - 4 Tents, each 10 meters wide and 20 to 25 meters long
  - 5 Guardhouse
  - 6 Spur track
  - 7 Single-story flight control station with tower
  - 8, 9 Two hangars with eight-sectional gates; steel structures
  - 10 Low utility building with mess hall
  - 11 Two-story quartering building with 28 windows on the front side
  - 12 Two-story quartering building with 26 windows on the front side
- Buildings 10 through 12 are new constructions, some interior work is still under way
- 13 Four temporary wooden buildings
  - 14 Two-story quartering building under construction
  - 15 Kamenz-Nord freight station
  - 16 Storage area for construction materials
  - 17 Low buildings at the construction site of the VPL
  - 18 Barracks installations occupied by VPL.

25X1

SECRET